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WHITE HOUSE FOR OVP

E.O. 12958: DECL: 08/02/2007 TAGS: ETTC, PREL, UNSC, IZ

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SUBJECT: UN/IRAQ: UNDP OFFICIALS DENY HAVING MANIPULATED

THE UN OIL-FOR-FOOD CONTRACT APPLICATION PROCESS

**REF: STATE 107865** 

CLASSIFIED BY: 1.5 (B) AND (D).

REASONS: 4

1. ( SUMMARY: AFTER NUMEROUS SCHEDULING DIFFICULTIES, USUN POLOFF FINALLY MET JULY 10 AND AGAIN AUGUST 2 WITH KEY UNDP OFFICIALS TO RAISE U.S. CONCERNS OVER ALLEGED INAPPROPRIATE UNDP MANIPULATION OF THE UN OIL-FOR-FOOD CONTRACT PROCESS (REFTEL). IN RESPONSE, UNDP AUTHORITIES FOCUSED ON WHAT THEY CLAIMED WERE EFFORTS BY THE COMPANY IN QUESTION,

1. 4 d

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TO CIRCUMVENT ESTABLISHED UNDP CONTRACT BIDDING PROCEDURES.

UNDP OFFICIALS CATEGORICALLY DENIED ANY ATTEMPT: A) TO
ENCOURAGE TO CIRCUMVENT U.S. EXPORT CONTROL
REGULATIONS, AND, B) TO ADVISE THAT THE ONLY
AVAILABLE AVENUE FOR SECURING A UNDP CONTRACT WAS TO PAY A
SURCHARGE FEE TO THE IRAQI GOVERNMENT. END SUMMARY.

1.4 d

ACTING ON INSTRUCTIONS (REFTEL), USUN POLOFF MET JULY 10 WITH UN DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM (UNDP) DEPUTY ASSISTANT ADMINSTRATOR AND DEPUTY REGIONAL DIRECTOR FOR ARAB STATES OSCAR FERNANDEZ-TARANCO FOLLOWING FIVE EARLIER UNSUCCESSFUL ATTEMPTS TO ARRANGE AN APPOINTMENT, COMPLICATED BY THE EXTENDED ABSENCE OF KEY UNDP OFFICIALS WHO WERE ON SUMMER LEAVE. POLOFF DELIVERED REFTEL TALKING POINTS, UNDERSCORING U.S. CONCERNS OVER ALLEGED COMMENTS BY UNDP OFFICIALS ADVOCATING CIRCUMVENTION OF U.S. EXPORT CONTROL REGULATIONS AND PAYMENT OF A TEN PER CENT SURCHARGE TO IRAQI GOVERNMENT

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OFFICIALS. (COMMENT: FERNANDEZ-TARANCO APPEARED UNSETTLED BY
THE SERIOUS NATURE OF THE ALLEGATIONS, YET REMAINED
INSTINCTIVELY DEFENSIVE OF UNDP ACTIONS. END COMMENT). HE
VOICED DOUBT THAT ANY UNDP EMPLOYEE WOULD VOICE AN OPINION ON
THE DOMESTIC LEGISLATION OF A MEMBER-STATE, BUT PROMISED TO
INVESIGATE THE MATTER FURTHER, THEN CONTACT POLOFF FOR A
FOLLOW-UP MEETING.

3. ( POLOFF'S PROMISED FOLLOW-UP DISCUSSION WITH FERNANDEZ-TARANCO OCCURRED AUGUST 2. UNDP CHIEF OF THE IRAQ PROGRAM MR. MICHEL GAUTIER, THE INDIVIDUAL ALLEGED IN STATE'S GUIDANCE CABLE TO HAVE MADE INAPPROPRIATE REMARKS TO OFFICALS FROM A PRIVATE COMPANY, ACCOMPANIED FERNANDEZ-TARANCO. GAUTIER IDENTIFIED \_\_\_AS THE COMPANY THAT HAD SUBMITTED A BID FOR A CONTRACT INVOLVING AN ELECTRICAL HIGH AND LOW VOLTAGE PROJECT FOR NORTHERN IRAQ. GAUTIER EXPLAINED BID DID NOT/NOT INCLUDE QUOTES ON CONTROL SYSTEMS NEEDED FOR THE ELECTRICITY PROJECT. ALTHOUGH SUCH ITEMS COULD HAVE BEEN PROVIDED BY OTHER AFFILIATES LOCATED IN GERMANY AND ITALY THAT WOULD NOT HAVE BEEN SUBJECT TO U.S. EXPORT CONTROL REGULATIONS, GAUTIER SAID DELIBERATELY SUBMITTED A BID APPLICATION WITHOUT CONTROL SYSTEM QUOTES, CITING A PRIOR INCIDENT IN THE LATE 1980'S WHEN USG OFFICIALS PENALIZED FOR HAVING IMPROPERLY SHIPPED CONTROLLED GOODS TO THE FORMER SOVIET UNION IN VIOLATION OF U.S. EXPORT CONTROL RULES.

1.40

1.4 d

1,4 d

1.4 d

4. GAUTIER REPORTED THAT UNDP REPRESENTATIVES MET IN AMMAN, JORDAN SEPTEMBER 4, 2001 WITH \_\_\_\_\_OFFICIALS TO

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DISCUSS IN GENERAL TERMS UNDP'S INVITATION TO BID (ITB) PROCESS. GAUTIER CLAIMED THE DISCUSSION DID NOT/NOT FOCUS ON

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THE SPECIFICS OF BID ON THE ELECTRICITY PROJECT	1.4d
FOR NORTHERN IRAQ, SINCE SUCH A DISCUSSION WAS PROHIBITED BY	7.74
UNDP CONTRACT BID REGULATIONS. NEVERTHELESS, GAUTIER SAID	
ATTEMPTED TO QUESTION UNDP CONTRACT SELECTION	1.4d
PRACTICES, PROMPTING THE UNDP OFFICIALS TO WRITE HE THE	1.70
INCIDENT FOLLOWING THE MEETING AS AN ATTEMPT BY A COMPANY	
SUBMITTING A CONTRACT TO INFLUENCE THE DECISION IN DIRECT	
VIOLATION OF UNDP REGULATIONS.	

GAUTIER CLAIMED SUBSEQUENTLY TRAVELED TO NEW YORK, WHERE HE MET WITH GAUTIER AND TWO OTHER UNDP OFFICIALS AT UNDP HEADQUARTERS IN MANHATTAN. GAUTIER DENIED HAVING EVER MADE A STATEMENT ADVOCATING CIRCUMVENTION OF U.S. RE-EXPORT RULES. GAUTIER ALSO DENIED EVER HAVING DISCUSSED THE ISSUE OF THE IRAQI GOVERMENT'S REPORTED IMPOSITION OF A SURCHARGE ON CONTRACTS DESTINED FOR IRAQ. POLOFF UNDERSCORED U.S. CONCERNS, ESPECIALLY WITH REGARD TO THE SURCHARGE ISSUE, STATING THAT GAUTIER AND/OR OTHER UNDP OFFICIALS SHOULD REPORT ANY EVIDENCE OF GOI EFFORTS TO IMPOSE A SURCHARGE ON OIL-FOR-FOOD CONTRACTS TO THE IRAQ SANCTIONS 661 COMMITTEE. GAUTIER AND FERNANDEZ-TARANCO PROMISED TO KEEP POLOFF INFORMED OF ANY FUTURE UNDP CONTACT WITH FERNANDEZ-TARANCO SPECULATED THAT THE ISSUES RAISED BY POLOFF INVOLVED A COMPANY THAT ITSELF WAS TRYING TO MANIPULATE UNDP

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PAGE 02 USUN N 01939 02 OF 02 022325Z SUBJECT: UN/IRAQ: UNDP OFFICIALS DENY HAVING MANIPULATED THE UN OIL-FOR-FOOD CONTRACT APPLICATION PROCESS

CONTRACT BIDDING RULES TO WIN APPROVAL FOR THEIR APPLICATION ON THE ELECTRICITY PROJECT IN THE NORTH. FERNANDEZ-TARANCO CLOSED BY NOTING THAT WAS NOT AWARDED THE CONTRACT IN QUESTION.

1.4 d

1.4d

6. ( COMMENT: USUN POLOFF SURMISES THAT UNDP IRAQ PROGRAM CHIEF GAUTIER LIKELY SUGGESTED THAT FIND AN ALTERNATE SOURCE FOR THE CONTROL SYSTEMS PORTION OF THEIR CONTRACT BID. POLOFF ALSO BELIEVES GAUTIER, DESPITE HIS DENIALS, LIKELY REFERRED TO GOI DEMANDS FOR A SURCHARGE. HOWEVER, POLOFF BELIEVES THAT IN LIGHT OF THE USUN DEMARCHE, GAUTIER AND FERNANDEZ-TARANCO WILL EXERCISE FAR GREATER CAUTION IN THE FUTURE IN DISCUSSING CONTRACT ISSUES WITH POTENTIAL BIDDERS. POLOFF CONSIDERS THE USG DEMARCHE TO HAVE SUCCEEDED IN PUTTING UNDP ON NOTICE NOT TO DEVIATE FROM AUTHORIZED PRACTICE, ESPECIALLY WITH REGARD TO CONTRACT APPLICATIONS FOR GOODS DESTINED FOR IRAQ. END COMMENT.

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1. ( DEPARTMENT REQUESTS USUN TO APPROACH APPROPRIATE UN OFFICIALS REGARDING ALLEGATIONS CONCERNING THE MANIPULATION OF UN OIL-FOR-FOOD CONTRACTS BY REPRESENTATIVES OF THE UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM (UNDP). THE ALLEGATIONS CHARGE THAT THE UNDP DELIBERATELY REQUIRES INTERNATIONAL COMPANIES TO VIOLATE U.S. EXPORT CONTROL REGULATIONS IN ORDER TO BE CONSIDERED FOR LUCRATIVE CONTRACTS IN IRAQ, AND THAT A UNDP OFFICIAL ENCOURAGED A FIRM TO PAY AN ILLEGAL SURCHARGE TO THE IRAQI GOVERNMENT. USUN MAY USE THE FOLLOWING POINTS WITH APPROPRIATE UN OFFICIALS:

## 2. ( - RELEASABLE TO OIP AND UNDP SENIOR OFFICIALS)

-- WE ARE CONCERNED ABOUT INFORMATION THAT A STAFF MEMBER OF THE UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM (UNDP) MAY HAVE GIVEN TO A COMPANY REGARDING AN ELECTRICITY PROJECT FOR NORTHERN IRAQ.

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- -- THE PROJECT IN QUESTION IS ELECTRICAL HIGH AND LOW VOLTAGE PROJECT (BID ENRP/Q-004001-ERBIL AND DOHUK SUBSTATIONS).
- -- OUR INFORMATION IS THAT IN EARLY SEPTEMBER 2001, A COMPANY INTERESTED IN THE PROJECT TOLD UNDP THAT IT COULD NOT PROVIDE THE HARDWARE AND SOFTWARE REQUESTED BECAUSE THEY WERE U.S.-CONTENT PRODUCTS THAT ARE NOT AUTHORIZED FOR RE-EXPORT TO IRAQ UNDER U.S. EXPORT CONTROL REGULATIONS. ALLEGEDLY, IN RESPONSE, THE UNDP REPRESENTATIVE IN NEW YORK, MICHELLE GOTIER, QUESTIONED THE LEGALITY OF THE U.S. REEXPORT LEGISLATION AND PROPOSED THAT THE COMPANY ENGAGE THE ASSISTANCE OF AN IRAQI THIRD-PARTY FOR THE REEXPORT OF THE HARDWARE AND SOFTWARE REQUIRED.
- -- IN ADDITION, THE COMPANY SAYS THAT IN LATE 2001, IRAQI OFFICIALS REQUESTED THAT THE COMPANY ADD TEN PERCENT TO THEIR CONTRACT AS A SURCHARGE TO BE COLLECTED BY THE IRAQI GOVERNMENT. ALLEGEDLY, UNDP STAFFER GOTIER SAID THAT IF THE COMPUTER SYSTEM AND THE 10 PERCENT SURCHARGE WERE NOT INCLUDED, UNDP WOULD NOT AWARD THE CONTRACT TO THE COMPANY.
- -- IT IS INAPPROPRIATE FOR STAFF OF THE UN TO SUGGEST WAYS TO EVADE EXPORT CONTROL LAWS. EVEN MORE TROUBLING IS THE POSSIBILITY THAT A UN STAFF MEMBER MAY HAVE ENCOURAGED AN ILLEGAL SURCHARGE PAYMENT TO IRAQI AUTHORITIES, A CLEAR VIOLATION OF UN SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTIONS.
- -- I ASK THAT YOU LOOK INTO THIS MATTER AND INFORM ME OF WHAT

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YOU FIND. FURTHER I URGE THAT STAFF MEMBERS INVOLVED IN PROJECTS FOR IRAQ BE REMINDED THAT COMMISSIONS, SURCHARGES CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 STATE 107865 042347Z AND SIMILAR PAYMENTS TO IRAQ OR ITS REPRESENTATIVES ARE STRICTLY PROHIBITED UNDER UN SECURITY RESOLUTIONS, DESPITE THE FACT THAT IRAQI AUTHORITIES ROUTINELY DEMAND SUCH PAYMENTS. POWELL

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## CONFIDENTIAL BELGRADE 001368

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (TAGS AND DECL INSTR)

E.O. 12958: DECL: 5/30/12 TAGS: PARM, PREL, SR, IQ, UN

SUBJECT: ALLEGATIONS OF MANIPULATION OF THE IRAQI OIL-FOR-FOOD PROGRAM BY THE UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

#### 600 III

PAGE 02 BELGRA 01368 312153Z CLASSIFIED BY AMBASSADOR MONTGOMERY FOR REASONS 1.5 (B) AND (D).

### SUMMARY

JALLEGED THAT REPRESENTATIVES OF THE

UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM (UNDP) WERE ENCOURAGING

VIOLATIONS OF THE IRAQI OIL-FOR-FOOD PROGRAM. SAID

THAT SUBMITTED THE LOWEST BIDS FOR AN ELECTRICAL HIGH AND

LOW VOLTAGE PROJECT (BID ENRP/Q-004001-ERBIL AND DOHUK

SUBSTATIONS STAGE 2 (Z67 AND Z68)) IN NORTHERN IRAQ, BUT DID

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Dept. of State, RPS/IPS, Margaret P. Grafeld, Dir. () Release (X) Excise () Deny () Declassify Date 3/21/2005 Exemption 13/(1.40)

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Current Handling: n/a

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NOT RECEIVE THE CONTRACT FOR THE PROJECT. HE ALLEGED THAT UNDP DID NOT AWARD THE CONTRACT TO \_\_ BECAUSE, \_\_ REFUSED TO 1.4d INCLUDE A MICROCOMPUTER BASED SUBSTATION CONTROL SYSTEM IN THE TERMS OF THE CONTRACT. ILLEGAL COMPUTER SYSTEM 2. ( SAID THAT EXCLUDED THE COMPUTER SYSTEM 1.4 d BECAUSE IT WAS NOT AUTHORIZED FOR REEXPORT BY THE OFFICE OF FOREIGN ASSET CONTROL (OFAC) OF THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TREASURY, FOR ANTI-TERRORISM REASONS (4A994). HOWEVER, THE REPRESENTATIVE SAID THAT, IN EARLY SEPTEMBER 2001, THE 1,4d UNDP REPRESENTATIVE IN THE NEW YORK, MICHELLE GOTIER, CHALLENGED THE LEGALITY OF THE U.S. REEXPORT LEGISLATION. GOTIER ALSO PROPOSED THAT \_ \_ ENGAGE THE ASSISTANCE OF AN 1,4d IRAQI THIRD-PARTY FOR THE REEXPORT OF THE HARDWARE AND SOFTWARE REQUIRED FOR THE MICROCOMPUTER BASED SUBSTATION PAGE 03 BELGRA 01368 312153Z CONTROL SYSTEM. IRAQ WANTS A CUT -----3. ( IN NOVEMBER 2001, MET WITH UNIDENTIFIED IRAQI 1,4 2 OFFICIALS IN BAGHDAD REGARDING THE CONTRACT. THE OFFICIALS REQUESTED THAT ADD TEN PERCENT TO THEIR CONTRACT AS A SURCHARGE TO BE COLLECTED BY THE IRAQI GOVERNMENT. GOTIER 1.4d SUBSEQUENTLY TOLD THAT IF DID NOT INCLUDE THE COMPUTER SYSTEM AND THE TEN PERCENT SURCHARGE, UNDP WOULD NOT 1.42 AWARD THE CONTRACT TO 1.4d COMMENT IS DIRECTLY CHARGING THE UNDP 1,4d WITH DELIBERATELY REQUIRING INTERNATIONAL COMPANIES TO VIOLATE U.S. EXPORT CONTROL REGULATIONS IN ORDER TO BE CONSIDERED FOR LUCRATIVE CONTRACTS IN IRAQ. [ ] WARNS THAT 1.4d THEY ARE UNWILLING TO DO SO, GIVEN THE IMPLICATIONS TO THEIR BUSINESS TIES WITH THE U.S., BUT THAT OTHER COMPANIES ARE, AND WILL DO SO. ANY HELP OR FEEDBACK USUN OR WASHINGTON COULD PROVIDE REGARDING THIS ALLEGED INCIDENT WOULD BE GREATLY APPRECIATED. 1,4d MONTGOMERY CONFIDENTIAL

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